

N^o 12. Friday, January 13.

*Sed quanto Ille magis Formas se vertat in omnes,
Tanto, Nate, magis contende tenacia vincla. Virg.*

To CALEB D'ANVERS, Esq;

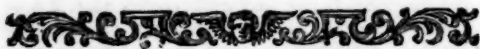
S I R,



THE Payment of the *Publick Debts* and the Redemption of the *Duties*, which they have occasion'd, are Subjects of such general Importance to the Kingdom, that I doubt not you will accept, in a candid Manner, of any Thoughts, which appear to have this View; tho' Things seem to be so unfortunately managed at present, that you are the only Author of this Kind, from whom I can, with any Degree of Confidence, expect such a Favour.

I presume, Sir, that you have read a little Piece, just published, entitled, *Remarks on a late Book, call'd, An Essay on the publick Debts of this Kingdom, &c.* as well as the Observations that have been made upon it in the *London Journal* on Saturday the 31st of last Month; upon which I think it necessary, for the Information of those Persons, who are but little acquainted with this Subject, or into whose Hands this Piece may not have fallen, to make some farther Remarks.

The *Writer* of the Letter in the *London Journal* begins with a pompous Eulogium of the *Author* of the *Essay*, (whom, for some Reasons, which I may hereafter mention, I take to be *Himself*;) and a very indiffe-



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indifferent Character of the *Remarker*, by telling us that the former seems to be a very great Master of the Subject he treats of; whereas it must appear to every one, who will read the Remarks with any Attention, and be at the Pains of comparing the Quotations, by reading the whole Paragraphs that he takes them from, that the Author of the Remarks does not only not know any thing of the Subject he is writing upon, but that he has dealt in a very extraordinary and dissingenuous Manner with the Author of the Essay; and seems not to have any View to set his Countrymen right in the great Question of the publick Debt; but, under Colour of making some poor Remarks upon a Book, which has deservedly gain'd Esteem in the World, takes an Opportunity of venting his personal Resentment against Those, who have a great Share in the Administration of the Affairs of this Kingdom.

As to the first Part of this modest Paragraph, which relates to the Author of the *Essay*, I must observe that the *Remarker* does not seem in any Part of his Book to deny, that he is a very great Master of the Subject he treats of; but only endeavours to shew, that he has apply'd his Talents to a very bad Use; and I have some Reason to believe, that great Part of his Resentment against the *Remarker* proceeds from his having discover'd a Design, which the Author of the *Essay* has taken so much Pains to conceal.

Whether the Author of the Remarks knows any Thing of the Subject he is writing upon, I shall leave the World to judge and determine; but, for my own Part, upon reading his Performance with the closest Attention, and comparing his Quotations very exactly with the Paragraphs from whence he takes them, I must be free to declare, that I think he has fully executed his Purpose, as it is express'd in the Title Page of his Book; which was to prove,
that

that the *Essay* is written with an *evil Tendency*, and that the Author's *Design* was to prepare the Nation for *farther Duties* and *new Debts*; which Point he seems to have clearly demonstrated by divers Passages and Quotations out of the *Essay*.

It is farther obvious, that the *Remarker* does not pretend to *dispute the Exactness of the Author's Calculations*; nor deny, for *Argument's Sake*, that they would operate in the *Manner which he asserts*, provided they were *strictly applied*; but, as his *Design* led him, he *desires his Countrymen to beware of the Doctrine, which seems to be couched under this flattering and delusive Scheme*; a *Doctrine* so ill disguised, that it may be discovered by any Man with the *least Attention*, and without *knowing any thing* of this Subject, so far as it relates to *Figures, Calculations*, and the *Particulars*, of which the publick Debt consists.

If therefore the *Letter-writer* had thought fit to have said any Thing to the Purpose, his proper Business would have been to shew that this Objection against the *Essay* was groundless; and that the *Remarker* had no Reason to charge the *Author* with such a pernicious *Design*; whereas he does not attempt to prove This, but flies off to another Point, quite foreign to the present Purpose, concerning STOCK-JOBBER, (by him called PUBLICK CREDIT) which the *Remarker* takes no Notice of, thro' his whole Book.

But there appears to be such a *Sameness* in this Gentleman's Writings and such a peculiar Propensity to *extraordinary Assertions*, that I must beg Leave to trouble you with another Letter on what he has farther offered in that Paper.

In the mean time, since the *Letter-writer* has thought fit to treat the *Remarks* in so *disingenuous* a Manner, and to condemn them by wholesale, without producing one Passage out of them, or offering the
least

least Reason for his Severity ; it will not, I hope, be thought improper to shew, by a Quotation or two, the true *Design* of this Piece, and how much it has suffered by this Author's Misrepresentation.

He begins with stating the Author's *Scheme* very exactly ; which he sums up in this Manner.

“ If in the Year 1727, the whole publick Debt
“ of this Kingdom (by which I mean, *All* that the
“ *Publick owes*, whether it be *publickly known*, or
“ not) shall really amount to no more than *fifty*
“ *Millions*. IF in the same Year the Income of the
“ *sinking Fund* may be certainly computed at a Sum
“ of *one Million*. IF we can be absolutely sure that
“ the said Sum of *one Million* will, from Year to
“ Year, be punctually applied, in the Manner before-
“ mentioned, to the Purposes, to which it is appro-
“ priated. IF we may assuredly depend upon it, that
“ *no Minister*, for the future, will be induced, *in any*
“ *possible Exigence of Affairs*, real or pretended, to lay
“ Hands upon this *sacred Treasure*, and divert it to
“ *other Purposes*. IF we can undoubtedly promise
“ our selves to be free from any Wars, Insurrections
“ or Troubles, for a certain large Number of Years
“ to come ; or, IF the *sinking Fund* can be suppo-
“ sed to make a *greater Progress* under the Incum-
“ brances of an *expensive War*, than in a Time of
“ *profound Peace*. I say, *if* all these Suppositions
“ are not ridiculous Chimæra's, but well-grounded
“ Presumptions, then is our Author's *Scheme* a *ra-*
“ *tional Scheme*, and we may rely upon seeing the
“ publick Debt totally discharged by it, within the
“ Time proposed ; nay, we may carry our Debts
“ to the utmost Extravagance, in Confidence of ha-
“ ving them, one Time or other, fully discharged
“ by a sinking Fund of *one Million*, according to the
“ Rules of *geometrical Progression*.

In the next Place he undertakes to shew the Author's *secret Design*; which, he says, seems to "be as far as He can judge, to prepare the Nation for *new Debts*, (could any Government be either so weak, or so wicked as to follow his Directions,) under the popular Pretence of exhibiting a *Scheme* for paying the *old*; for were the Author's only Design to prove the Efficacy and Sufficiency of the *sinking Fund* for paying our *present Debt*, he could have no Occasion to carry its Progress any farther than this End; nor is it of any Advantage to his Argument, to demonstrate that such a Sum so applied, will *not only* pay off our *present Debt*, but *also* any farther increased Sum, which we shall please to add to it. I say, it can be of no Advantage to his Argument to suppose any *farther Debt*; since if it be sufficient to pay the *present*, we desire no more. To carry his Calculations therefore, with so much Pains, farther than we now have, or, I hope, ever shall have Occasion for them, bears an ill Aspect, and must be allowed to be altogether unnecessary and impertinent to his present Purpose, if he had no other *Design*. However it be, an honest *Briton* does not love to hear the frequent Repetition of *farther Duties* and *new-invented Funds*, or to see any *Calculations*, which appear to have this Tendency; nor would he have such broad Hints given to *Men*, who are ready enough of themselves to lay hold of all Occasions of this Nature.

The Author of the *Essay* having asserted that the *Lands, Estates, Expence or Commerce* of Great Britain will yet easily admit of farther Duties, sufficient to furnish new Funds, to answer the Interest of such Sums, as any publick Occasion whatsoever, that he can possibly represent to himself, can call for; the Remark goes on thus;

" Was

“ Was ever any Author guilty of such an extravagant Assertion; or, of such a flat Contradiction to the common Sense and Knowledge of a whole Nation? Is there not already a *Land-Tax* upon our *Estates* as large as can be reasonably desired in a Time of *Peace*? Are not all our *ordinary Expenses* burthen'd with Duties; or is there any considerable Branch of Commerce, which does not pay its Custom? Is there scarce any Thing, that we eat, drink, wear, or in any Manner use, which does not contribute to the Necessities of the Government? Are not many Things doubly, trebly, and even quadruply loaden? Is not This generally lamented by all People; and can our Author, who pretends to understand the State of the Nation so exactly, be ignorant of it? Or, does he imagine that all the World have lost the Use of their *Eyesight* and *Feeling*, except himself?

“ What therefore shall we say to a Man, who thus insolently sports with the Calamities of a Nation, and lays wanton Plans for *future Ministers* (since I am sure they can have no Influence upon the *present*) to oppress his Fellow-Subjects with such grievous Burthens, as neither *we* nor our *Children* shall be able to bear?

But the most unjust Imputation of all against the *Remarker* is, that he has taken this Opportunity of venting his personal Resentments against *Those, who have a great Share in the Administration of the Affairs of this Kingdom*; whereas I can, with great Confidence, assert that no Writer whatsoever has, at any Time, in so small a Book, mentioned these Gentlemen so often or with more Respect. Nay, in one Place, I think he carries the Point too far, and shews almost too servile a Regard even for the *best of Ministers*, where he proposes to have an *Act of Parliament* made on Purpose to secure them in their Employments during Life, and to have a new Form of

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Prayer

Prayer inserted in our *Liturgy* for their *Preservation* and *Continuance*; but though This may be esteem'd, perhaps, too high a Strain of Deference to the *greatest* and *worthiest* of Men in that Station, by setting them too much upon an Equality with their *Royal Master*; yet, if it should, at any Time, be thought expedient, I shall chearfully submit to the *one*, and conform to the *other*; being resolved not to dissent from the publick Worship, nor to go once the seldomer to *Church* on that Account.

I hope, Sir, This will be thought sufficient to shew the *Disgenuity* of the *Letter-writer*, and convince the World, that such a desultory Manner of treating the *Remarks* must proceed from a Consciousness of his Inability to support the *Essay* against the Charge, which is brought against it in that Book. But as he has thought fit to open another Field of Argument by advancing some *new* and *curious Tenets*; I must beg the Favour of you to reserve me a Place in your Paper one Day next Week, in Order to insert some Observations upon them, from,

S I R,

Your Humble Servant,

N

BRITANNICUS.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Whereas the Publick has been most grossly imposed on, and abused by the late invented golden Trusses for preventing of Ruptures, which it is now known have proved ineffectual; This is to give Notice to all Persons, that a Preparation of Steel is making at a certain Place, over-against the Horse-Guards; which will have a much better Effect, by entirely changing the Constitution, and making it more strong and vigorous for the future.

Monday